

IN THE ABSTRACT:

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Q2 A ~~device of the present invention~~ stent, used for insertion into a vessel includes a generally tubular stent body with one or more external longitudinal projections. ~~The stent is used for insertion into a vessel.~~ These projections may extend from the distal end of the stent to the proximal end of the stent, or they may terminate at a location proximal to the distal end of the stent and/or distal to the proximal end of the stent. The projections act as rails to reduce a contact area between the stent and a vessel wall as well as to act to focus and concentrate the radial forces. Preferably the distal end of each projection is tapered to facilitate crossing a tight undilated stenotic segment. When the stent is inserted into the vessel, it is expanded by balloon inflation, shape memory, self-expansion and; other means. The projections may be formed in the stent, added as separate elements and attached by suitable methods, or formed by crimping the stent with a suitable tool.

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